

“BEGINNERS’ LUCK?”



6 ½ year old Arianna and 34 inch, 17 pound salmon

Spoonplugging is especially suited to **give beginning fishermen**, including youth, an **unforgettable fishing experience**. A Spoonplugger with just moderate experience can often take out a beginning fisherman and **help them catch their “fish of a lifetime”**. Why is that? There are at least **3 reasons why this can happen**.

1)--**We troll**. Normally, about 80% of a Spoonpluggers’ time is spent trolling to explore and learn a lakes structure. Structure is the key to locating fish, and the largest, most aggressive fish get the “best lie”. The better we learn the bottom of the lake where it is different, the greater chance we have to locate the biggest fish. Trolling is ideal for beginners, especially youth, because if they get bored, a rod holder could be used, and casting skills are not required.

2)--**We have knowledge, guidelines, and fishing procedures** given to us by Buck Perry that are proven successful over many years. The more closely we follow them, the more success we will see. They are readily available in the “Green Book”, pamphlets, and Study Guide. Our passengers’ success is directly related to how much knowledge and experience we utilize when running the boat.

3)---**The recommended tools**, or fishing equipment, that we use **are simple and designed to handle big fish**. With strong test line, durable reels with smooth star drags, and tough fishing rods, there is less the beginner can do to make errors and lose big fish.

I have a **6 ½ year old granddaughter** who loves to fish, especially for panfish. **This age** or younger is the **best time to get youth started fishing**. Once the teen years start, they don't seem to have time for it unless they have fished before. On Tuesday August 30, 2011, I took her out of **Holland** into Lake Michigan to fish for perch. There were a few other perch boats NW of the pier, so we joined them. A few mostly small fish were being caught, but after 3 hours it was getting rough, so we decided to go **into Lake Macatawa** and do some trolling. To cover different depths, it was decided to **follow the base breakline structure** and run 2 lines suspended. A **#700 Spoonplug on wire** line was used to walk the bottom, **a #100 Spoonplug on monofilament to run about 14 feet**, and **Tadpolly on a high line to run about 6 feet down**. All 3 rods were **put in rod holders** and the wire line was closely watched to keep us on structure. Soon **a big fish hit the wire** line rod. I set the hook and **handed the rod to my granddaughter**, somewhat unsure because she **had never held the rod up on her own for a big fish before**. Also, a wire line setup is more difficult to handle and less forgiving than monofilament. **I could not help** her hold the rod up because I needed to bring in the other 2 lines, steer the boat, and get ready to net a big fish. She quickly learned to **put the base of the rod on the seat** and **pull up on it for leverage** and crank. The **boat was kept moving** slowly forward to keep tension on the line. It was a long, exciting fight and she did a superb job (with a little encouragement) bringing in the fish, which **turned out to be a 34 inch, 17 pound King Salmon!** This certainly was a **“fish of a lifetime”** for her, one **she will never forget**. Later that day, she landed a smaller drum on the high line just like a “pro”, and I likely will have **no trouble in the future to get her to go fishing with me!**

Chase F Klinesteker CSI